

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In answer to the office action, the applicant proposes to cancel claims 15 to 20. As explained hereafter, the remaining claims are considered as new and inventive when considering Shiga et al.

Novelty

Steps of the claimed process for switching television programs (claim 21) are:

- selecting stored data in response to a user command and corresponding to the new selected program,
- displaying temporarily such data till availability, for display, of the current data of the newly selected program.

Shiga discloses (US Patent 6,005,562) the storage of data to be retrieved when selecting the electronic program guide in order to display EPG images. The EPG display mode has to be selected to display EPG images (still images). For example, column 8, lines 32-35:

"Such EPG image data is stored at the receiver and selectively retrieved and displayed by the user in response to his operation of the remote control device."

Shiga doesn't disclose the selection of stored data in response to "a user command to select a new program", but in response to a command to select the program guide. The EPG can't be considered as a program per se as it displays data corresponding to several programs.

Shiga doesn't disclose the step of displaying said stored data when the new program is selected but discloses a step of displaying current data of a selected program when the new program is selected. In Shiga, the selection is made through the program guide.

The stored data are used to build the electronic program guide (EPG) and not to be displayed when the new program is selected through the EPG. Shiga doesn't propose or suggest to display data temporarily when selecting a program. Consequently, our invention, as claimed in claim 21, is new.

### Inventive step

The aim of our invention is to provide, immediately after selecting a program, data relating to this program (see specification page 11, end of the page). Such data are very important for the viewer as he doesn't wish to wait for 2 or 3 seconds before knowing what is on the air when browsing programs. Due to the number of programs now available, he needs immediate information about the selected program in order to increment or decrement the program number, on his remote control, without having to wait.

The problem to be solved is to get immediate information instead of blanks after selecting a program.

Shiga proposes an electronic program guide, which is selected through the remote control. Once selected, an EPG image is displayed comprising still pictures relative to channels. The still images are used to identify the programs (column 8, lines 44-45). The viewer selects an image or uses the scrolling function to display and then select an image to choose the program.

Shiga doesn't address the problem of getting immediate information. Instead, he proposes the use of an EPG to select a program. Consequently, it is not necessary to provide information about the selected program immediately after selecting a program as this information is available before selecting this program. Shiga doesn't propose a fast zapping method. The switching of television programs goes through an EPG image allowing the program to be selected. The one skilled in the art won't search in Shiga the solution to the above problem.

Supposing the one skilled in the art has to solve such a problem of blank screen when zapping and knows Shiga document, he would not find, in this document, the idea to display immediately data from a selected channel. As explained column 8, lines 3-9, the EPG is displayed on request (EPG display mode). It means the stored data are displayed on request for these specific display (EPG) and not automatically and temporarily as in our invention, when the viewer requests the current data (and not stored data) corresponding to the selected program.

In Shiga: the appended data are only displayed when the EPG is selected and this EPG is not deleted automatically but after another selection from the viewer (selection of the chosen program). Stored data are used to build and display the EPG image.

In our invention: the appended data are automatically displayed when the corresponding program is selected by the viewer and are automatically deleted when current video is available (i.e. decoded) for display. Stored data are used to display temporarily an image corresponding to a selected program in order to avoid dead time.

In conclusion, our process, as claimed in claim 21, is new and inventive. Other dependent claims and the corresponding device claim claiming a "switching circuit enabling a temporary switch over to the selected appended data for display" are consequently new and inventive.

According to the Examiner, Shiga discloses the selecting and decoding step of the stored appended data relating to a new program in response to a user command to view the new program.

Shiga, column 8, lines 45-61 is cited as anticipating claim 21. This excerpt discloses that, when the user tunes his receiver to a different broadcast channel, the information displayed in the title bar changes in a similar manner to display the broadcast channel, title of the program and category of that program to which the receiver now is tuned.

Another excerpt is cited, column 9, lines 5-61, as anticipating claim 21. This excerpt discloses EPG text data may be displayed depending upon the display mode selected by the user. It can be superimposed over a program or can be a full screen display.

These excerpts don't disclose temporarily display of stored data till the current data of the selected program are available for display. (This characteristic implicitly means the stored data are automatically replaced by the current data when available).

These excerpts don't disclose a selection and decoding of stored data relating to the new selected program in response to a user command to view the new program (the stored data are displayed in response to an EPG request).

*- Claim 28*

A characteristic of the device is a switching circuit allowing a temporary switch over to the selected appended data for display. According to the Examiner, Shiga, column 16, lines 29-65 discloses such a characteristic. This excerpt doesn't disclose the temporary transmission of stored data while waiting decoding and transmission of current data. It only describes the display of a menu and the use of cursors to select a still image identifying the program to be viewed. No information is given, in Shiga, about the switching circuits when performing fast zapping.


Supplementary request (amendment of claims 21 and 28)

As a supplementary request, if necessary and for clarity purpose, the applicant proposes to amend claims 21 and 28 by specifying the switching is from a program to another one, in order to stress the method and device apply to fast switching and not EPG. (cf. title of the invention: process for switching television programs, which is different from a process for selecting a television program).

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DIDIER DOYEN ET AL.

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey M. Navon  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 32,711  
(609) 734-6823

Patent Operations  
Thomson Licensing Inc.  
CN-5312  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
kms  
September 16, 2004